

RAJYA SABHA

[19 April, 2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Utilization of storage capacity by FCI

3648. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the storage capacity of FCI godowns and other warehouses in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the percentage of utilization of storage capacity as on 1.1.2001 by Food Corporation of India was ten per cent less;

(c) whether it is also a fact that on the other hand the existing quantum of foodgrains is lying in the open because of lack of storage capacity;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what concrete steps are being taken by Government to make full utilization of storage capacity by FCI specially in the light of the position stated in part (c) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The Food Corporation of India has a total storage capacity of 31.09 million tonnes (Owned & Hired/Covered and CAP) all over the country as on 1.3.2001.

(b) The percentage utilization of the total storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India, as on 1.1.2001, has been an all time high of 90% and further increased to 92% as on 1.2.2001 and 93% as on 1.3.2001.

(c) and (d) The total storage capacity available with FCI as on 1.3.2001 is 31.09 million tonnes as against the stock holdings of 28.94

million tonnes. CAP (Open) storage is also a scientific form of storage where wheat and paddy stocks are stored for a temporary period to meet the increased procurement at any given time. All efforts are being made to ensure that capacity requirements are successfully met to match the unprecedented procurement of procurement.

(c) To increase the capacity utilization, the following steps are being taken by FCI:—

- (i) Liquidate the obsolete/dead stock item lying in depots.
- (ii) to increase the height of stacks.
- (iii) liquidate damaged foodgrains.
- (iv) closely monitor the available storage capacity in each depot.
- (v) liquidate part stacks.
- (vi) formulate storage plan depending upon the commodity requirements.

#### Milk Crisis

3649. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the Indian Express, dated 15th January, 2001 under the caption "Price dip, milk crisis simmers in Punjab";
- (b) if so, what are Government's views and reaction thereto; and
- (c) the details of the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken for survival of domestic milk producers by giving incentives and other benefits to dairy sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is promoting dairy sector through cooperatives. Milk producers of a village are organized into a village milk cooperative managed by their